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## TAFT APOLOGIZES FOR HIT AT PRESS

But Declares That Roasting Task Was Not So Difficult.

SPENDS BUSY DAY  
IN NEW YORK CITY

At Press Club He Describes Sen-  
sation of Being President and  
Admits Frequent Discourage-  
ments—Defends His Cust-  
om of Travelling—Ad-  
vocates World Peace.

New York, March 22.—President Taft, facing a crowd of 500 newspaper men and editors at the New York Press Club this afternoon, indirectly apologized for his remarks concerning the press made in a recent speech in Chicago. He explained his attitude after John A. Hennessy, president of the club, had remarked in a speech that he did not agree with the President's views. Then Mr. Taft said that the chairman of the Chicago Press Club

whispered to him as he got up to speak: "They want to hear about the press, so roast them," and I am bound to say that the task was not so difficult," the President added.

"This being President of the United States, presents a good many new sensations to one who came into the office under the conditions that surrounded my coming in. I had been on the bench for twelve years, and I think the bench the only place in the country—in the United States, at least—that is free from severe criticism by the press. And having had that sort of training, it is a little hard for me to get used to any other kind of treatment. I am being educated, but there are times at the White House when you are exercising what is sup-

**A Heart to Heart Talk.**  
"Things don't go right. Your motives are misconstrued, and then you take a long walk, and you say to yourself: 'There is one thing anyhow—they cannot despise your children."

they cannot deprive your children of their inheritance. You have a right to your descendants of having your picture on the walls of the White House paid for by the Congress.' And then you go home and look at the picture of 'Teddy,' and the picture of Grover Cleveland, and of Abraham Lincoln, and the others you have there, and you come to the conclusion that even though that isn't a consolation. But the truth is that these sensations that

man has, under the pressure of which he expresses himself with considerable heat, pass. I don't go to the point of saying nothing much matters. That isn't true. I believe a good many things matter a great deal, but I do think a long experience with

will make men feel to be less important, the injustice, if there be injustice, in such criticism vastly less important they seem to be when they are cutting their hide, so to speak. After all, everybody wants to be square. A great deal that is said

the superlative in our life is understood to be in the positive—a grade; that is said of an irritating character is momentary, and is forgotten by the man who uses it more quickly than by the man whom it hurts—which is an indication that the feeling that he has toward his victim

only momentary, and does not evidence that real cruelty that would justify excitement on the subject."

Mr. Taft paid a compliment to the newspaper men who travel with him wherever he goes. This brought him naturally to a defense of his custom

**Defends Custom of Traveling.**  
"This traveling business, I believe," he said, "has been made the subject of some criticism. Well, I am a traveler. I got into the Presidency traveling, and I can't get over the habit. When you are being hammered

as some times I have been in Washington, not only by the press, but by members of your own party in Washington, and one feels that there is nothing quite right that he can do but the pleasure of going out into the country, of going into a city the

hasn't seen a President for twenty years, and then makes a fuss over him in order to prove to him that there is somebody that does not know of his defects, is a pleasure that I don't like to forego."

Although the assemblage at the White House is cheering to the tune of the national anthem, the president

Press Club sang in chorus to the tune of "Old Uncle Ned," a parody describing the recent events in the House of Representatives. President Taft made no reference to the Cannery episode in his speech. He beamed genially, however, and nodded his head when the crowd sang this chorus:

"Hang up the gavel and cigar, cigar. Close up the House and Senate bar; There is trouble and woe for poor Uncle Joe, 'Cause he went just a little too far. It was certainly a strenuous day that the President spent in New York."

He was pursued for a mile through Central Park by a bicycle policeman seeking speed limit violators; his automobile led the fastest race through Fifth Avenue and congested Broadway that the natives have witnessed many a day; he lectured an assembly of editors at luncheon at the

residence of Henry Clews, the New York banker; he discussed the Eastern situation with former Vice President Fairbanks, conferred with county political leaders briefly—this beside the Press Club reception and two banquets which he attend

The luncheon at Clews residence was private and was attended by nearly every prominent newspaper editor in New York. Among the editors were many who had strongly opposed

It was said later at Clews's home that the President had given a "heart to heart talk" to the editors, that